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REGISTER OF ACTIONS CASE No. C-1819-16-I

Sherie Esparza VS. Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Company

Contract -

Case Type: Consumer/Commercial/Debt

(OCA)

Date Filed: 04/21/2016 Location: 398th District Court

PARTY INFORMATION

Defendant

Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance

Company

Attorneys ROGER D. HIGGINS Retained

214-871-8256(W)

Plaintiff

Esparza, Sherie

Jesse S. Corona Retained 713-861-0015(W)

EVENTS & ORDERS OF THE COURT

OTHER EVENTS AND HEARINGS

04/21/2016 Original Petition (OCA)

Plaintiff's Original Petition with Discovery

04/21/2016 Memorandum

Civil Case Information Sheet

04/25/2016 Citation

AYISHA SAID TO EMAIL TO: admin@thecoronalawfirm. ENV# 10280623

Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Company

Served Returned 05/13/2016

05/23/2016

04/25/2016 Service Issued 05/23/2016

Service Returned Return of Service

06/03/2016 Answer

Defendant's Original Answer

06/07/2016 Motion

Plaintiff's Unopposed Motion to Compel Mediation

06/07/2016 Order Filed

Order on Plaintiff's Unopposed Motion to Compel Mediation

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Defendant Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Company

Total Financial Assessment Total Payments and Credits Balance Due as of 06/10/2016

2.00 0.00

06/03/2016 06/03/2016

Transaction Assessment EFile Payments from

Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Company

2.00 (2.00)

2.00

TexFile

Plaintiff Esparza, Sherie Total Financial Assessment Total Payments and Credits Balance Due as of 06/10/2016

346.00 346.00

04/21/2016

Transaction Assessment

0.00

04/21/2016

EFile Payments from

Esparza, Sherie

342.00 (342.00)

05/24/2016 05/24/2016

TexFile Transaction Assessment

Esparza, Sherie

2.00 (2.00)

06/08/2016

EFile Payments from Receipt # DC-2016-040088 TexFile Transaction Assessment

2.00

06/08/2016 EFile Payments from TexFile

Receipt # DC-2016-044059

Receipt # DC-2016-031141

Receipt # DC-2016-043031

Esparza, Sherie

(2.00)



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SHERIE ESPARZA,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
× .	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
•	§	
vs.	§ ·	HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND	§	
PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY,	§	
	§	
Defendant.	§	JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION WITH DISCOVERY

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, SHERIE ESPARZA ("Plaintiff"), and complains of ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY ("ALLSTATE" and/or "Defendant"). In support of such claims and causes of action, Plaintiff respectfully shows unto this Honorable Court and Jury as follows:

I. DISCOVERY CONTROL PLAN

1.1 Discovery in this case should be conducted in accordance with a Level 3 tailored discovery control plan pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 190.4. Plaintiff affirmatively pleads this suit is not governed by the expedited-actions process in Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 169, as Plaintiff seeks monetary relief over \$100,000.

II. PARTIES

- 2.1 Plaintiff, SHERIE ESPARZA, is a resident of Hidalgo County, Texas.
- 2.2 Defendant, ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY, is a foreign company engaged in the business of insurance in this state. It may be served with process by serving its registered agent, CT Corporation System, by certified mail,

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return receipt requested, at 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 900, Dallas, Texas 75201-3136, or wherever it may be found. Plaintiff requests citation be issued at this time.

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3.1 This Court has jurisdiction over this case in that the amount in controversy exceeds the minimum jurisdictional limits of this Court.
- 3.2 Venue is proper in Hidalgo County, Texas, because all or a substantial part of the events giving rise to the lawsuit occurred in this county, and the insured property that is the basis of this lawsuit is located in Hidalgo County, Texas.

IV. AGENCY AND RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR

4.1 Whenever in this petition it is alleged that Defendant did any act or thing, it is meant that Defendant or its agents, officers, servants, employees, or representatives did such a thing. It was also done with the full authorization or ratification of Defendant or done in the normal routine, course and scope of the agency or employment of Defendant or its agents, officers, servants, employees, or representatives.

V. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

5.1 All conditions precedent to recovery have been performed, waived, or have occurred.

VI. FACTS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

- 6.1 Plaintiff is the owner of a Texas Homeowner's Policy number 829718789 issued by ALLSTATE (the "Policy").
- Plaintiff owns the insured property, which is specifically located at 3200 6.2 Yellowhammer Avenue, McAllen, Texas 78504 (the "Property").

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6.3 ALLSTATE, or its agent(s), sold the Policy, insuring and covering the Property

against damages from storm-related events, to Plaintiff.

6.4 On or about March 26, 2015, Plaintiff experienced a storm that damaged the

Property. In its track, the storm left behind widespread damage to the Property, Plaintiff's home.

6.5 The Plaintiff timely submitted a claim to ALLSTATE. ALLSTATE assigned

various adjusters to adjust the claim. However, ALLSTATE and and its agents were not diligent

in investigating Plaintiff's loss. ALLSTATE failed to timely and accurately investigate the

covered loss. ALLSTATE assigned claim number 0372391573 to Plaintiff's claim.

6.6 Ultimately, ALLSTATE, inspected Plaintiff's property after the storm. During the

inspection, ALLSTATE, was tasked with the responsibility of conducting a thorough and

reasonable investigation of Plaintiff's claim, including determining the cause of, and then

quantifying the damage done to Plaintiff's home.

6.7 ALLSTATE prepared a repair estimate which did not account for all of the covered

damages. Further, even the damages that were accounted for were vastly under-scoped. Thus,

Defendant ALLSTATE demonstrated it did not conduct a thorough investigation of the claim.

6.8 Defendant ALLSTATE failed to fairly evaluate and adjust Plaintiff's claim as they

are obligated to do under the Policy and Texas law. By failing to properly investigate the claim

and wrongfully denying full coverage to Plaintiff, ALLSTATE engaged in unfair settlement

practices by misrepresenting material facts to Plaintiff.

6.9 Defendant ALLSTATE failed to perform its contractual duty to adequately

compensate Plaintiff under the terms of the Policy. Specifically, Defendant ALLSTATE failed

and refused to properly pay proceeds for the Policy, although due demand was made for proceeds

to be paid in an amount sufficient to cover the damaged property, and all conditions precedent to

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recovery upon the Policy had been carried out and accomplished by Plaintiff. Defendant

ALLSTATE's conduct constitutes a material breach of the insurance contract.

Defendant ALLSTATE misrepresented to Plaintiff that the damage to the Property

was not covered under the Policy, even though the damage was caused by a covered peril.

Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the Unfair Settlement Practices section of the Texas

Insurance Code. Tex. Ins. Code § 541.060(a)(1).

Defendant ALLSTATE's repair estimate under-scoped the covered damages and

misrepresented the benefits under the Policy, which promised to pay the amount of loss to the

Plaintiff. Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the Misrepresentation Regarding Policy

or Insurer section Texas Insurance Code. Tex. Ins. Code § 541.051(1)(B).

6.12 Defendant ALLSTATE failed to make an attempt to settle Plaintiff's claims in a

prompt and fair manner, although they were aware of its liability to Plaintiff was reasonably clear

under the Policy. Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the Unfair Settlement Practices

section of the Texas Insurance Code. Tex. Ins. Code § 541.060(a)(2)(A).

6.13 Defendant ALLSTATE failed to explain to Plaintiff why full payment was not

being made. Furthermore, Defendant did not communicate that future payments would be

forthcoming to pay for the entire losses covered under the Policy, nor did Defendant provide any

explanation for the failure to adequately settle Plaintiff's claims. Tex. Ins. Code § 541.060(a)(3).

6.14 Defendant ALLSTATE failed to affirm or deny coverage of Plaintiff's claim within

a reasonable time. Specifically, Plaintiff did not receive timely indication of acceptance or

rejection, regarding the full and entire claim, in writing from Defendants. Defendant's conduct

constitutes a violation of the Unfair Settlement Practices section of the Texas Insurance Code. Tex.

Ins. Code § 541.060(a)(4).

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6.15 Defendant ALLSTATE refused to fully compensate Plaintiff under the terms of the

Policy, even though Defendant failed to conduct a reasonable investigation.

Defendant ALLSTATE performed a results/outcome-oriented investigation of Plaintiff's claim,

which resulted in a biased, unfair and inequitable evaluation of Plaintiff's losses to the Property.

Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the Unfair Settlement Practices section of the Texas

Insurance Code. Tex. Ins. Code § 541.060(a)(7).

Defendant ALLSTATE misrepresented the insurance policy sold to Plaintiff by (1)

making an untrue statement of material fact regarding coverage; (2) failing to state a material fact

necessary to make other statements made not misleading, considering the circumstances under

which the statements were made; (3) making a statement in a manner that would mislead a

reasonably prudent person to a false conclusion of a material fact regarding coverage; (4) making

a material misstatement of law; and/or (5) failing to disclose a matter required by law to be

disclosed, including failing to make a disclosure in accordance with another provision of the Texas

Insurance Code, in violation of Section 541.061 of the same.

6.17 Defendant ALLSTATE failed to meet its obligation under the Texas Insurance

Code regarding timely acknowledging Plaintiff's claim, beginning an investigation of Plaintiff's

claim, and requesting all information reasonably necessary to investigate Plaintiff's claim within

the statutorily mandated deadline. Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the Prompt

Payment of Claims subchapter of the Texas Insurance Code. Tex. Ins. Code § 542.055.

6.18 Defendant ALLSTATE failed to accept or deny the Plaintiff's full and entire claim

within the statutory mandated deadline of receiving all necessary information. Defendant's

conduct constitutes a violation of the Prompt Payment of Claims subchapter of the Texas Insurance

Code. Tex. Ins. Code § 542.056.

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6.19 Defendant ALLSTATE failed to meet its obligations under the Texas Insurance

Code regarding payment of claims without delay. Specifically, Defendant has delayed full

payment of Plaintiff's claim longer than allowed and, to date, Plaintiff has not yet received full

payment for Plaintiff's claim. Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the Prompt Payment

of Claims subchapter of the Texas Insurance Code. Tex. Ins. Code § 542.058.

6.20 From the point in time Plaintiff's claim was presented to Defendant ALLSTATE,

the liability of Defendant to pay the full claim in accordance with the terms of the Policy was

reasonably clear. However, Defendant ALLSTATE has refused to pay Plaintiff in full, despite

there being no basis whatsoever on which a reasonable insurance company would have relied to

deny the fully payment. Defendant's conduct constitutes a breach of the common law duty of

good faith and fair dealing.

6.21 As a result of Defendant's wrongful acts and omissions, Plaintiff was forced to

retain the professional services of the attorney and law firm who are representing Plaintiff with

respect to these causes of action. On or about October 17, 2015 Plaintiff's counsel sent a letter of

representation requesting various documents related to the storm.

6.22 On or about February 2, 2016, Plaintiff's counsel sent a Texas Deceptive Trade

Practices Act ("DTPA") and Texas Insurance Code Notice and Demand letter. The letter informed

Defendants of potential violations under the DTPA and Insurance Code related to its handling and

adjusting of Plaintiff's claim and potential claims, including attorney's fees, statutory penalty

interest, and additional damages arising from those violations. The Notice and Demand letter

provided Defendants with the statutorily mandated sixty days to respond, and an opportunity to

resolve the claim without extended litigation costs. Defendant made no attempt to respond to the

Demand or settle the claim, satisfying the statutory requirement that Defendants either deny a

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION

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DTPA and Insurance Code Demand, or be allotted a sixty time period to attempt to resolve the

6.23 To date, Defendant ALLSTATE has failed to and refused to pay Plaintiff for the

proper repair of the property. Plaintiff's experience is not an isolated case. The acts and omissions

of Defendants committed in this case, or similar acts and omissions, occur with such frequency

that they constitute a general business practice of Defendants with regard to handling this type of

claim. Defendants' entire process is unfairly designed to reach favorable outcomes for the

company at the expense of the policyholder.

claim before a petition is to be filed.

VII. COUNTS

7.1 Plaintiff incorporates by reference all facts, statements, and allegations set forth in

all previous paragraphs, as if set forth in full in each cause of action that follows.

7.2 **COUNT 1 – BREACH OF CONTRACT**

At the time of the loss, Plaintiff had valid, enforceable insurance contract in

place, issued by Defendant (the "Policy"). Plaintiff was the insured of the contract.

Plaintiff fully performed her contractual obligations by making premium payments as

required by the insurance contract, and at all times complied fully with all material

provisions of the Policy.

b. According to the Policy that Plaintiff purchased, Defendant ALLSTATE

had the duty to investigate and pay Plaintiff's policy benefits for claims made for covered

damages, including additional benefits under the Policy, resulting from the damages. As a

result of these damages, which result from covered perils under the Policy, the Plaintiff's

home has been damaged.

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Defendant ALLSTATE's failure to properly investigate and refusal, as c.

described above, to pay the adequate compensation as it is obligated to do under the terms

of the Policy in question and under the laws of the State of Texas, constitutes a material

breach of Defendant ALLSTATE's contract with Plaintiff. As a result of this breach of

contract, Plaintiff has suffered the damages that are described in this Petition, the producing

cause of which is Defendant's actions.

7.3 COUNT 2 – PROMPT PAYMENT OF CLAIMS; VIOLATION OF TEXAS

INSURANCE CODE §542, ET SEQ.

Under the Texas Insurance Code, Defendant ALLSTATE had a duty to a.

investigate and pay Plaintiff's claim under the Policy in a timely manner. Defendant

ALLSTATE violated Section 542 of the Texas Insurance Code by not timely:

(1) commencing its investigation of the claim; (2) requesting information needed to

investigate the claim; (3) communicating with its insured regarding the status of its

investigation, including failing to accept or reject Plaintiff's claim in writing within the

statutory timeframe; (4) conducting its investigation of the claim; and (5) paying the claim.

b. All of the above-described acts, omissions, and failures of Defendant is a

producing cause of Plaintiff's damages that are described in this petition. Defendant

ALLSTATE is therefore liable under Section 542 for penalty interest at the rate set forth

in the statute, and attorney's fees taxed as costs of this suit.

Additionally, if it is determined Defendant ALLSTATE owes Plaintiff any

additional money on Plaintiff's claim, then Defendant has automatically violated Section

542 in this case.

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7.4 COUNT 3 – UNFAIR INSURANCE PRACTICES; VIOLATION OF TEXAS INSURANCE CODE § 541, ET SEQ.

- a. As an insurer, Defendant ALLSTATE owes statutory duties to Plaintiff as its insured. Specifically, the Texas Insurance Code prohibits Defendant ALLSTATE from engaging in any unfair or deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance.
- b. By its acts, omissions, failures, and conduct, Defendant ALLSTATE has engaged in unfair and deceptive acts or practices in the business of insurance in violation of 541 of the Texas Insurance Code. Such violations include, without limitation, all the conduct described in this petition, plus Defendant's unreasonable delays and under-scoping in the investigation, adjustment, and resolution of the Plaintiff's claim, plus Defendant's failure to pay for the proper repair of the Plaintiff's home on which liability had become reasonably clear. They further include Defendant's failure to give Plaintiff the benefit of the doubt. Specifically, Defendant ALLSTATE are guilty of the following unfair insurance practices:
 - i. Misrepresenting to Plaintiff pertinent facts or policy provisions relating to the coverage at issue;
 - ii. Failing to attempt in good faith to effectuate a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of claim submitted in which liability had become reasonably clear;
 - iii. Failing to provide promptly to a policyholder a reasonable explanation of the basis in the insurance policy in relation to the facts or applicable law for the denial of a claim or for the offer of a company's settlement.
 - iv. Failing to affirm or deny coverage of Plaintiff's claim within a reasonable time;

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- Refusing to pay Plaintiff's claim without conducting a reasonable ٧. investigation with respect to the claim; and
- vi. Misrepresenting the insurance policy sold to Plaintiff by (1) making an untrue statement of material fact regarding coverage; (2) failing to state a material fact necessary to make other statements made not misleading, considering the circumstances under which the statements were made; (3) making a statement in a manner that would mislead a reasonably prudent person to a false conclusion of a material fact regarding coverage; (4) making a material misstatement of law; and/or (5) failing to disclose a matter required by law to be disclosed, including failing to make a disclosure in accordance with another provision of the Texas Insurance Code.
- Defendant ALLSTATE has also breached the Texas Insurance Code when c. it breached its duty of good faith and fair dealing. Defendant's conduct as described herein has resulted in Plaintiff's damages that are described in this petition.
- d. All of the above-described acts, omissions, and failures of Defendant is a producing cause of Plaintiff's damages that are described in this petition, and were done knowingly and/or intentionally as that term is used in the Texas Insurance Code.

7.5 COUNT 4 – DTPA; VIOLATIONS OF TEXAS BUSINESS AND COMMERCE CODE § 17.46, ET SEQ.

Plaintiff is a consumer of goods and services provided by Defendant as a. defined by the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act ("DTPA"), codified under Chapter 17 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code. The Plaintiff has met all conditions precedent to bringing this cause of action against Defendants. Specifically, Defendant's violations of the DTPA include without limitation, the following matters.

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b. By its acts, omissions, failures, and conduct that are described in this petition, Defendant ALLSTATE has committed false, misleading, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of § 17.46(b)(2), (3), (5), (7), (11), (12), (13), (20), and (24) of the DTPA. In this respect, Defendant's violations include without limitation:

- i. Unreasonable delays in the investigation, adjustment and resolution of Plaintiff's claim, during which Defendant employed a series of alleged "independent adjusters" under the control of Defendant, that caused confusion to Plaintiff as to whom was representing whom, and had whose best interests in mind. This gives Plaintiff the right to recover under Section 17.46(b)(2) and (3) of the DTPA;
- ii. As described in this Petition, Defendant represented to Plaintiff that the insurance policy and Defendant's adjusting and investigative services had characteristics, uses, or benefits that it did not have, which gives Plaintiff the right to recover under Section 17.46(b)(5) of the DTPA;
- iii. As described in this Petition, Defendant represented to Plaintiff that the insurance policy and Defendant's adjusting and investigative services were of a particular standard, quality, or grade when they were of another in violation of Section 17.46(b)(7) of the DTPA;
- iv. As described in this petition, Defendant represented to Plaintiff that the insurance policy and Defendant's adjusting and investigative services conferred or involved rights, remedies, or obligations that it did not have, which gives Plaintiff the right to recover under Section 17.46(b)(12) of the DTPA;

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- v. Defendant knowingly made false or misleading statements of fact concerning the need for replacement of roofing systems, which gives Plaintiff the right to recover under Section 17.46(b)(13) of the DTPA;
- vi. Defendant breached an express and /or implied warranty that the damage caused by the subject storm would be covered under the insurance policies. This entitles the Plaintiff to recover under Sections 17.46(b)(12) and (20) and 17.50(a)(2) of the DTPA;
- vii. Defendant failed to disclose information concerning the insurance policy which was known at the time of the transaction where the failure to disclose such information was intended to induce the Plaintiff into a transaction into which the Plaintiff would not have entered had the information been disclosed. This gives Plaintiff the right to recover under Section 17.46(b)(24) of the DTPA;
- viii. Defendant's actions, as described in this petition, are unconscionable in that it took advantage of Plaintiff's lack of knowledge, ability, and experience to a grossly unfair degree. Defendant's unconscionable conduct gives Plaintiff the right to relief under Section 17.50(a)(3) of the DTPA; and
- ix. Defendant's conduct, acts, omissions, and failures as described in this petition, are unfair practices in the business of insurance in violation of Section 17.50(a)(4) of the DTPA, under which violations of Chapter 541 of the Texas Insurance Code are an enabling statute.
- c. All of the above-described acts, omissions, and failure of Defendant is a producing cause of Plaintiff's damages that are described in this petition. All of the above-described acts, omissions, and failures of Defendant were done knowingly and

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intentionally, as those terms are used and defined in the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices

Act.

7.6 COUNT 5 – BREACH OF DUTY OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING

a. By its acts, omissions, failures, and conduct, Defendant has breached its

common law duty of good faith and fair dealing by failing to pay the proper amounts on

Plaintiff's entire claim without any reasonable basis, and by failing to conduct a reasonable

investigation to determine whether there was a reasonable basis for this denial. Defendant

has also breached this duty by unreasonably delaying payment of Plaintiff's entire claim,

and by failing to settle Plaintiff's entire claim because Defendant knew or should have

known that it was reasonably clear that the claim was covered. These acts, omissions,

failures, and conduct of Defendant is a proximate cause of Plaintiff's damages.

7.7 **COUNT 6 – MISREPRESENTATION**

a. Defendant ALLSTATE is liable to Plaintiff under the theories of intentional

misrepresentation, or in the alternative, negligent misrepresentation. Defendant

ALLSTATE did not inform Plaintiff of certain exclusions in the policy. Misrepresentations

were made by Defendant ALLSTATE or its agents, with the intention that they should be

relied upon and acted upon by Plaintiff, who relied on the misrepresentations to his

detriment. As a result, Plaintiff has suffered damages, including but not limited to loss of

the Property, loss of use of the Property, mental anguish and attorney's fees. Defendant

ALLSTATE is liable for these actual consequential and penalty-based damages.

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VIII. WAIVER AND ESTOPPEL

8.1 Defendant is waived and is estopped from asserting any coverage defenses, conditions, exclusions, or exceptions to coverage not contained in any reservation of rights letter to the

Plaintiff.

IX. DAMAGES / CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

- 9.1 All the damages described and sought in this petition are within the jurisdictional limits of the Court and exceed an aggregate amount of monetary relief over \$100,000 but not more than \$200,000.
- 9.2 The above described acts, omissions, failures, and conduct of Defendants caused Plaintiff's damages, which include, without limitation, (1) the cost to properly repair Plaintiff's home, (2) any investigative and engineering fees incurred by Plaintiff, (3) court costs, and (4) attorney fees. The Plaintiff is entitled to recover consequential damages from Defendants' breach of contract. The Plaintiff is also entitled to recover the amount of Plaintiff's claim plus an 18% per annum penalty on that claim against Defendants as damages under Section 542 of the Texas Insurance Code, plus prejudgment interest.
- 9.3 Defendant has also "knowingly" and "intentionally" committed deceptive trade practices and unfair insurance practices as those terms are defined in the applicable statutes. Because of Defendant's knowing and intentional misconduct, Plaintiff is entitled to additional damages as authorized by Section 17.50(b)(1) of the DTPA, which allow recovery of up to three times economic damages. Where there is an enabling statute for the DTPA, as there is here with the Texas Insurance Code, Plaintiff is entitled to recovery of up to three times actual damages. Plaintiff is further entitled to the additional damages that are authorized by Section 541 of the Texas Insurance Code.

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9.4 Defendant's breach of its duty of good faith and fair dealing owed to Plaintiff was

done intentionally, with a conscious indifference to the rights and welfare of Plaintiff, as defined

in Chapter 41 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code. These violations by Defendant is

the type of conduct which the State of Texas protects its citizens against by the imposition of

exemplary damages. Therefore, Plaintiff seeks the recovery of exemplary damages in the amount

to be determined by the finder of fact that is sufficient to punish Defendant for its wrongful conduct

and to set an example to deter Defendant and others similarly situated from committing similar

acts in the future.

X. ATTORNEY'S FEES

10.1 As a result of Defendant's conduct that is described in this petition, Plaintiff has

been forced to retain the undersigned law firm and attorney to prosecute this action, and has agreed

to pay reasonable attorney's fees. Plaintiff is entitled to recover these attorney's fees under Chapter

38 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Section 541 and 542 of the Texas Insurance

Code, and Section 17.50 of the DTPA.

XI. DISCOVERY

11.1 Under the Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 194, the Defendant is requested to disclose

within fifty (50) days of service of this request, the information of material described in Texas

Rule of Civil Procedure 194.2(a) through (l). Plaintiff's Requests for Disclosure, Requests for

Production, Interrogatories, and Requests for Admissions are attached, for service at the time of

service of this petition, and incorporated herein by reference.

XII. JURY DEMAND

12.1 Plaintiff demands a jury trial and tenders the appropriate fee with this petition.

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION

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XIII. PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff SHERIE ESPARZA prays that

Defendant ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY be cited to

appear and answer herein, and that upon trial hereof, said Plaintiff have and recover such sums as

would reasonably and justly compensate Plaintiff in accordance with the rules of law and

procedure, as to economic damages, actual damages, consequential damages, statutory penalty

interest, treble damages under the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act and Texas Insurance Code,

and all punitive and exemplary damages as may be found. In addition, Plaintiff requests the award

of attorney's fees for the trial and any appeal of this case, for all costs of court, for prejudgment

and post-judgment interest, at the highest rate allowed by law, and for any other and further relief,

at law or in equity, to which Plaintiff may show herself to be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

THE CORONA LAW FIRM, PLLC

By: /s/ Jesse S. Corona

Jesse S. Corona

Texas Bar No. 24082184

Southern District Bar No. 2239270

521 N Sam Houston Pkwy E, Ste. 420

Houston, Texas 77060

Office: 281.882.3531

Facsimile: 713.678.0613

Jesse@theCoronaLawfirm.com.

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION

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CIVIL CASE INFORMATION SHEET (REV, 2/13)

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CAUSE NUMBER (FOR CLERK USE ONLY):

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Court (For CLERK USE ONLY): Reviewed By: Leticia Pecina

STYLED Sherie Esparza vs. Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Company

(e.g., John Smith v. All American Insurance Co. In re Mary Ann Jones: In the Matter of the Estate of George Jackson)

A civil case information sheet must be completed and submitted when an original petition or application is filed to initiate a new civil, family law, probate, or mental health case or when a post-judgment petition for modification or motion for enforcement is filed in a family law case. The information should be the best available at the time of filing

the time of filling						
1. Contact information for perso	n completing case information sheet	: Names of parties lu	Names of parties in case:		Person or entity completing sheet is:	
Jesse S. Corona jesse@thecoronalawfirm.com admin@thecoronalawfirm.com		om	Plaintiff(s)/Petitioner(s): Sherie Esparza		ey for Plaintiff/Petitioner Plaintiff/Petitioner V-D Agency	
Address: Formula admin@thecoronalawiim.com 521 N. Sam Houston Pkwy E, Ste. 420 (281) 882-3531					l Parties in Child Support Case:	
City/State/Zip: Houston, Texas 77060	Fax: (713) 678-0613	Defendant(s)/Respo	* *****	Custodial	Parent:	
Signature!	7 State Bar No: 24082184	Company	Property Insurance Company [Attach additional page as necessary to list all parties]		Presumed Father:	
2. Indicate case type, or identify	the most important issue in the case					
	Civil			Fam	ily Law	
Contract		0.10	XX		Post-judgment Actions	
Debt/Contract Consumer/DTPA Debt/Contract Fraud/Misrepresentation Other Debt/Contract Foreclosure Home Equity—Expedited Other Foreclosure	☐Construction ☐Defumation Malpractice ☐Accounting	Real Property Eminent Domain/ Condemnation Partition Quiet Title Trespass to Try Title Other Property:	Marriage Relati	ge Void en	(non-Title IV-D) Enforcement	
☐Franchise ☐Insurance ☐Landlord/Tenant ☐Non-Competition ☐Partnership ☐Other Contract;	☐ Motor Vehicle Accident ☐ Premises Product Liability ☐ Asbestos/Silica ☐ Other Product Liability List Product:	Related to Criminal Matters Expunction Judgment Nisi Non-Disclosure Scizure/Forteiture Writ of Habeas Corpus— Pre-indictment Other:	Other Family □ Enforce Foreig Judgment □ Habeas Corpue □ Name Change □ Protective Ord □ Removal of Di of Minority □ Other:	in S	Parent-Child Relationship Adoption/Adoption with Termination Child Protection Child Support Custody or Visitation Gestational Parenting Grandparent Access Parentage/Paternity Termination of Parental	
Employment	Other C	vil		al en 21a	Rights ☐Other Parent-Child:	
☐ Discrimination ☐ Retaliation ☐ Termination ☐ Workers' Compensation ☐ Other Employment:	□Antirus/Unfair Competition □Code Violations	□ Lawyer Discipline □ Perpetuate Testimony □ Securities/Stock □ Tortious Interference □ Other:				
		Probate &	Mental Health			
□ Tax Appraisal Probate/Wills/Intestate Administration □ Tax Delinquency □ Dependent Administration □ Other Tax □ Independent Administration □ Other Estate Proceedings		ion	☐Guardianship—Adu ☐Guardianship—Mino ☐Mental Health ☐Other:			
3. Indicate procedure or remedy, if applicable (may select more than 1):						
Appeal from Municipal or Justice Court Arbitration-related Attachment Bill of Review Certioriri Class Action Declaratory Judg Garnishment Interpleader License Mandamus Post-judgment		y Jüdgment nt er	☐ Protec ☐ Receji ☐ Seque	stration orary Restri	nedy nining Order/Injunction	
4. Indicate damages sought (do n						
Less than \$100,000 and non-m Over \$100,000 but not more the	□ Less than \$100,000, including damages of any kind, penalties, costs, expenses, pre-judgment interest, and attorney fees □ Less than \$100,000 and non-monetary relief □ Over \$100,000 but not more than \$200,000 □ Over \$200,000 but not more than \$1,000,000 □ Over \$1,000,000					

C-1819-16-I 398TH DISTRICT COURT, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

CITATION

STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty (20) days after you were served with this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY BY SERVING ITS REGISTERED AGENT: CT CORPORATION SYSTEM 1999 BRYAN STREET, SUITE 900 DALLAS, TEXAS 75201-3136 OR WHEREVER IT MAY BE FOUND

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the **PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION WITH DISCOVERY** on or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the Monday next after the expiration of twenty (20) days after the date of service hereof, before the **Honorable Aida Salinas Flores**, 398th **District Court** of Hidalgo County, Texas at the Courthouse at 100 North Closner, Edinburg, Texas 78539.

Said petition was filed on this the 21st day of April, 2016 and a copy of same accompanies this citation. The file number and style of said suit being C-1819-16-I, SHERIE ESPARZA VS. ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY

Said Petition was filed in said court by JESSE S. CORONA,521 N. SAM HOUSTON PKWY E, STE. 420 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77060.

The nature of the demand is fully shown by a true and correct copy of the petition accompanying this citation and made a part hereof.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of said Court at Edinburg, Texas on this the 25th day of April, 2016.

LAURA HINOJOSA, DISTRICT CLERK

HEATHER RIOJAS, DEPUTY CLERK

C-1819-16-I OFFICER'S RETURN

Came to hand on of executed in Defendant in person, a trudelivery to said Defendant	e copy of th dant togeth	is citation, er with	upon whic the accom	h I endorse panying o	ed the date of copy of the	
NAME	DATE	TIME	PLACE`			
And not executed as to the ordiligence used in finding so cause of failure to executinformation received as service of this citation, in ado of other process in the same	said defendate this prose to the Lactually dition to any	cess is: whereabout and necess other miles	uts of s sarily travel age I may ha	aid defen	and the dant, being: miles in the	
Fees: serving copy(s) \$ miles\$						
COMPLETE IF Y CONST In accordance to Rule 107, serve a citation must sign to sheriff, constable or the cler under the penalty of perjury statement below in substanti	TABLE OR the officer of the return. It is of the court. A return s	CLERK Of or authorized the return t, the return igned under	F THE CO ed person v is signed in must eithe	URT who serves by a person or be verifie	or attempts to n other than a d or be signed	
"My name is and the declare under penalty of per	address is _ jury that the t	foregoing is	true and co	my date	of birth is ,and I	
EXECUTED inC	County, State	of Texas,	on the	day of _	·	
Declarant"						
If Certified by the Suprem Date of Expiration / SCH		'exas				

Case 7:16-cv-00318 Document 1-2 Filed in TXSD on 06/10/16 Page 21 of 30

C-1819-16-I 398TH DISTRICT COURT, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS Hidalgo County District Clerks

Electronically Filed 5/23/2016 4:31:28 PM Reviewed By: Irene Caceres

CITATION

STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty (20) days after you were served with this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY BY SERVING ITS REGISTERED AGENT: CT CORPORATION SYSTEM 1999 BRYAN STREET, SUITE 900 **DALLAS, TEXAS 75201-3136** OR WHEREVER IT MAY BE FOUND

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION WITH DISCOVERY on or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the Monday next after the expiration of twenty (20) days after the date of service hereof, before the Honorable Aida Salinas Flores, 398th District Court of Hidalgo County, Texas at the Courthouse at 100 North Closner, Edinburg, Texas 78539.

Said petition was filed on this the 21st day of April, 2016 and a copy of same accompanies this citation. The file number and style of said suit being C-1819-16-I, SHERIE ESPARZA VS. ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND PROPERTY INSURANCE **COMPANY**

Said Petition was filed in said court by JESSE S. CORONA,521 N. SAM HOUSTON PKWY E, STE. 420 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77060.

The nature of the demand is fully shown by a true and correct copy of the petition accompanying this citation and made a part hereof.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of said Court at Edinburg, Texas on this the 25th day of April, 2016.

LAURA HINOJOSA, DISTRICT CLERK HIDALGO COUNTY TEXAS

HEATHER RIOJAS, DEPUTY CLERK

Electronically Filed 5/23/2016 4:31:28 PM Hidalgo County District Clerks Reviewed By: Irene Caceres

C-1819-16-I OFFICER'S RETURN

Came to hand on 9 of Mexecuted in DRUAS Cour	W	2016 at	/10 o'clo	ock m and
executed in DAUAS Cou	nty, Texas by	delivering t	to each of the	e within named
Defendant in person, a true copy	of this citati	ion, upon w	hich I endor	sed the date of
delivery to said Defendant	together wit	h the coo	ommontin o	£ 41
PLANNIFFIS ONGINE PENTI	w (petition) a	at the follow	ing times and	places, to-wit:
NAME DAT	E TIME	PLACE	3	
PAME AUSTATE VEHICLE AND faor Engy Insurance Company of CT Conformation And not executed as to the defend	3/16 942	- AM DALLA	DAYM ST 9, TEXAS	15201-3136
And not executed as to the defend	in system		. The second sec	.1
And not executed as to the defend diligence used in finding said de	alli,			the
cause of failure to execute the	is process is	.g		and the
information received as to	the where	abouts of	said defe	endant heing
I ac				
service of this citation, in addition	to any other n	uleage Í may	y have travele	ed in the service
of other process in the same case d	uring the same	e trip.		
	·. W			
Fees: serving copy(s) \$ <u>85</u> miles\$				
mmes				
DEPUTY				
COMPLETE IF YOU A	RE PERSON	OTHER T	HAN A SHE	RIFF.
CONSTABLI	E OR CLERI	OF THE	COURT	
In accordance to Rule 107, the of	ficer or author	orized person	n who serves	or attempts to
serve a citation must sign the ret	ırn. If the re	turn is signe	ed by a perso	on other than a
sheriff, constable or the clerk of the	e court, the re	turn must ei	ther be verifi	ed or be signed
under the penalty of perjury. A restatement below in substantially the	turn signed u	nder penalty	of perjury n	nust contain the
_				
"My name is Johnsy R 3/12/59 and the address declare under penalty of perjury that	, Black		mv date	of hirth is
3/12/59 and the address	s is 8/28	SPMNA	CHPNESS	and I
declare under penalty of perjury that	it the foregoin	g is true and	correct.	
*				
EXECUTED in DAWAS County,	State of Texa	as, on the \underline{I}	day of	<i></i> ,
2016.				
Cholmy R Block	Negocom.			
Deciarant				
SCH 209 1/31/19 If Certified by the Supreme Cour				
If Certified by the Supreme Cour	t of Texas			
Date of Expiration / SCH Numbe	t ·			

Electronically Filed 5/23/2016 4:31:28 PM Hidalgo County District Clerks Reviewed By: Irene Caceres

A. Signature X B. Received by (Printed Name)	☐ Agent
Chris Wells	☐ Addressee
D. Is delivery address different from If YES, enter delivery address.	niten(NAVII) vas (1110) below: □ No
3. Service Type Adult Signature Adult Signature Restricted Delivery Certified Mail® Certified Mail Restricted Delivery Collect on Delivery	Priority Mail Express® Registered Mail™ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery Receipt for Merohandlee
Asil Restricted Delivery (over \$500)	☐ Signature Confirmation™ ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery
_	D. Is delivery address different from If YES, enter delivery address of YES, enter delivery a

Electronically Filed 6/3/2016 1:00:42 PM Hidalgo County District Clerks Reviewed By: Heather Riojas

CAUSE NO. C-1819-16-I

§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
§	
§	
§	
· §	
§	HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS
§	
§ ·	
§	
§	398th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
	\$

DEFENDANT'S ORIGINAL ANSWER

Defendant Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Company files this Original Answer to Plaintiff's Original Petition and would respectfully show the Court the following:

I. ORIGINAL ANSWER

Pursuant to Rule 92 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Defendant generally denies each and every, all and singular, allegation contained within Plaintiff's Original Petition, and demands strict proof then by a preponderance of the credible evidence in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas.

II. PRAYER

Defendant Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Company prays that upon final trial and hearing hereof, Plaintiff recovers nothing from Defendant, but Defendant goes from here without delay and recovers costs of court and other such further relief, both general and special, to which Defendant may be justly entitled.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Roger D. Higgins

Roger D. Higgins

State Bar No. 09601500

John B. Reyna

State Bar No. 24098318

THOMPSON, COE, COUSINS & IRONS, L.L.P.

Plaza of the Americas

700 N. Pearl Street, Twenty-Fifth Floor

Dallas, Texas 75201-2832

Telephone: (214) 871-8200

Telecopy: (214) 871-8209

rhiggins@thompsoncoe.com

jreyna@thompsoncoe.com

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served by electronic file notification and/or facsimile to the following counsel on June 3, 2016:

Jesse S. Corona

Corona Law Offices, P.C.

521 North Sam Houston Pkwy E, Ste 420

Houston, Texas 77060

Office: (281) 882-3531

Facsimile: (713) 678-0613

jesse@thecoronalawfirm.com

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS

/s/ John B. Reyna John B. Reyna

Defendant's Original Answer 2469641v1 03646.089

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CAUSE NO. <u>C-1819-16-I</u>

SHERIE ESPARZA,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
	§ .	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
vs.	§	HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND	§	
PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY,	§	
	§	_
Defendant.	§	398 th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PLAINTIFF'S UNOPPOSED MOTION TO COMPEL MEDIATION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, Plaintiff SHERIE ESPARZA, and moves this Honorable Court to compel mediation in accordance with Section 541.161 of the Texas Insurance Code, and Section 17.5051 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code. In support of this motion, Plaintiff would respectfully show this Court as follows:

I. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

- 1. Plaintiff SHERIE ESPARZA filed her Original Petition in Hidalgo County District Court on April 21, 2016. Plaintiff's Original Petition sought relief under both Section 541.161 of the Texas Insurance Code and Section 17.5051 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code, among others.
- 2. Citation and Petition were served on Defendant, ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY, ("ALLSTATE") on May 13, 2016. Defendant filed its Original Answer on June 3, 2016.

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Reviewed By: Irene Caceres

Π. ARGUMENT AND AUTHORITIES

3. Section 541.161 of the Texas Insurance Code and Section 17.5051 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code contain nearly identical language regarding compelling mediation. Under both sections, a party may, not later than the 90th day after the date a pleading seeking relief under this subchapter is served, file a motion to compel mediation of the dispute.

- 4. Under both sections, the court shall, not later than the 30th day after the date a motion under this section is filed, sign an order setting the time and place of the mediation.
- 5. Under both sections, the mediation must be held not later than the 30th day after the date the order is signed, unless, the parties agree otherwise, or the court determines that additional time not to exceed 30 days is warranted.
- 6. Under both sections, the court shall appoint a mediator if the parties do not agree on a mediator.
- 7. Under both sections, each party who has appeared in the action, except as agreed to by all parties who have appeared, shall participate in the mediation and share the mediation fee, unless the amount of actual damages claimed is less than \$15,000. If the amount of actual damages is less than \$15,000, then a party may not compel mediation under unless the party seeking to compel mediation agrees to pay the costs of the mediation.

III. APPLICATION

- 8. This motion is brought within 90 days after a pleading seeking relief under either Section 541.161 of the Texas Insurance Code or Section 17.5051 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code was served.
- 9. Plaintiff believes the parties can agree on a mediator. If not, Plaintiff asks that one is appointed by the Court.

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The amount of actual damages is more than \$15,000, so both Defendant and 10. Plaintiff shall participate in the mediation and share the mediation fee.

IV. **CONCLUSION**

11. Plaintiff's motion is timely, and satisfies the requirements of both Section 541.161 of the Texas Insurance Code and Section 17.5051 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code to compel mediation.

V. PRAYER

12. WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff SHERIE ESPARZA respectfully prays this Court compel mediation of this dispute in accordance with Section 541.161 of the Texas Insurance Code, and Section 17.5051 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code, within 30 days of the filing of this motion, and grant her any such other and further relief, at law or in equity, to which she may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

THE CORONA LAW FIRM, PLLC

By: /s/ Jesse S. Corona

Jesse S. Corona Texas Bar No. 24082184 Southern District Bar No. 2239270 521 N Sam Houston Pkwy E, Ste. 420 Houston, Texas 77060 Telephone: 281.882.3531

Facsimile: 713.678.0613 Jesse@theCoronaLawfirm.com

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

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CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE

I hereby certify that: I complied with the conference requirement. On June 7, 2016, I conferred with opposing counsel on the merits of the issues contained in this motion, and opposing counsel has indicated that the motion is unopposed.

By: /s/ Jesse S. Corona
Jesse S. Corona

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on June 7, 2016, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served on all counsel of record, via the below methods, as follows:

Roger D. Higgins

Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP Plaza of Americas 700 North Pearl Street, 25th Floor Dallas, Texas 75201 Telephone: (214) 871-8200 Facsimile: (214) 871-8209 rhiggins@thompsoncoe.com

Via Electronic Service

Via Electronic Service

John Reyna

Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP Plaza of Americas 700 North Pearl Street, 25th Floor Dallas, Texas 75201 Telephone: (214) 871-8218 Facsimile: (214) 871-8209 jreyna@thompsoncoe.com

By: /s/ Jesse S. Corona
Jesse S. Corona

Case 7:16-cv-00318 Document 1-2 Filed in TXSD on 06/10/16 Page 30 of 30
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Hidalgo County District Clerks
Reviewed By: Irene Caceres

CAUSE NO. <u>C-1819-16-I</u>

SHERIE ESPARZA,	§ IN THE DISTRICT COURT
Plaintiff,	§ §
vs.	§ HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS
ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY,	· ·
Defendant.	§ 398 th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
ORDER ON PLAINTIFF'S UNOPPO	OSED MOTION TO COMPEL MEDIATION
On this date, Plaintiff SHERIE ESI	PARZA's Unopposed Motion to Compel Mediation
was presented to this Court for consideration	n, and the Court having considered the same, is of the
opinion that such motion should in all things	s be GRANTED. Therefore, it is
ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DE	ECREED that mediation of this dispute is compelled
to take place by the day of	, 2016. Further, it is
ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DE	ECREED that if the parties are unable to agree on a
mediator, then	is appointed as the mediator.
SIGNED on this day of	, 2016.
	PRESIDING JUDGE